



**City of  
Santa Clara**  
The Center of What's Possible

**Mayor**

**Lisa M. Gillmor**

**Council Members**

Comments from  
Mayor Lisa M. Gillmor  
on

Docket Identification Nos. [EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0283 & NHTSA-2018-0067]

Debi Davis  
Patrick Kolstad  
Patricia M. Mahan  
Teresa O'Neill  
Kathy Watanabe

October 24, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Heidi King  
Deputy Administrator  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler  
Acting Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

The Honorable William Wehrum  
Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Secretary Chao, Acting Administrator Wheeler, Deputy Administrator King,  
and Assistant Administrator Wehrum:

As Mayor of the City of Santa Clara, California, and a member of Climate Mayors – a national coalition of 409 U.S. Mayors representing over 70 million Americans dedicated to pursuing solutions to global warming—I write to strongly support the current Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards and urge the Trump Administration to uphold this important policy.

Vehicles of all types in the United States are using less fuel thanks to CAFE standards enacted in 2011. By increasing vehicle efficiency, these standards have decreased harmful pollution that makes Americans sick, saved families billions of dollars at the gas pump, and spurred innovation and job creation.

In the City of Santa Clara, transportation and mobile sources account for 29% of our greenhouse gas emissions and are a significant contributor to air pollution. Our City has set a goal to reduce emissions by 55% by 2035 and the federal standards play a crucial role to achieving our targets. In 2016, the City of Santa Clara officially opened the largest public multi-standard electric vehicle charging facility in California. We are in the process of developing an Electric Vehicle (EV) Community Readiness Blueprint

Plan. This plan, to be completed by June of 2019, will accelerate transportation electrification within Santa Clara and provide

a roadmap for communities in Silicon Valley and beyond. Early this month, Santa Clara funded a multifaceted EV Program that will include Electrical Vehicle Charging Equipment rebate for residential, multi-family, schools, non-profit entities, and will develop projects for public access EV charging, resiliency and emergency EV charging access, along with outreach, education and community engagement.

Any effort by the Environmental Protection Agency to weaken tailpipe emission standards would be harmful to our residents' physical and financial health - impacts that we simply cannot afford. Instead of pushing carmakers to innovate and make our nation less reliant on foreign oil, relaxing CAFE standards would stall progress that has already provided so many benefits to American families.

Current CAFE standards have the additional and crucial benefit of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and are a powerful tool for climate action. The U.S. transportation sector accounts for nearly 30 percent of our greenhouse gases - the new leading source of carbon emissions. Cutting these standards sets us on the wrong course and impedes automotive innovation that is trending toward cleaner vehicles.

As Mayor, I am committed to lead on climate action and will continue to pursue electrification of transportation and support zero emission vehicles because it's the best step forward for our cities. In support of that effort, Climate Mayors has taken concrete action by launching the Climate Mayors Electric Vehicle Purchasing Collaborative which will leverage the collective buying power of member cities to reduce the costs for municipal EVs and charging station acquisition throughout the United States, and accelerate city fleet transition. These types of investments in efficient, modern vehicle technologies are good for local communities and good for the American economy.

Every American family benefits from strong standards for all types of vehicles. Weakening CAFE standards is unnecessary — it wastes fuel, taxpayer dollars, and the opportunity to continue to make progress on automotive innovation.

Sincerely,



Lisa M. Gillmor

Mayor

City of Santa Clara

cc: Santa Clara City Council  
Deanna J. Santana, City Manager  
John Roukema, Chief Electric Utility Officer  
Craig Mobeck, Director of Public Works